

"What was the health officer doing over to your house this morning?" said the grocery man to the bad boy, as the youth was firing frozen potatoes at the man who collects garbage in the alley. "O, they are searching for sewer gas and such things, and they have got plumbers and other society experts till you can't rest, and I came away for fear they would find the sewer gas and warm my jacket. Say, do you think it is right, when anything smells awfully, to always lay it to a boy?"

"S-h-h Now don't breathe a word of it to a living soul, or I am a dead boy. You see I was over at the fair at the exposition building Saturday night, and when they were breaking up, me and my chum helped to carry boxes of cheese and fixins of butter, and a cheese man gave each of us a piece of limburger cheese, wrapped up in tin foil. Sunday morning I opened my piece, and it made me tired. O, it was a perfect smell I ever heard of. ex-

dig up the floor in the basement I came over here. If they find any of that limberg cheese it will go hard with me. The hired girls have both quit, and me says she is going to break up house-keeping and board. That is just into my hand. I want to board at a hotel, where you can have a bill of fare, and toothpicks, and billiards, and everything. Well, I guess I will go over to the house and stand at the back door and listen to the mocking bird. If you see me come flying out of the alley with my coat tail full of boots, you can bet they have discovered the sewer gas."

"The sun shall not smite thee by day nor the moon by night." This beautiful verse expresses the belief, common in ancient days, that the moon exercises a baleful influence upon those exposed to her direct rays. In modern times the perniciousness of the moon has been doubted and even denied. But whatever the influence of the moon in the temperate zones, within the tropics it is very injurious to sleep exposed to its rays, especially when at the full. On a voyage to the antipodes, when near the line, a Maltese sailor, who was a most comical fellow, slept for some hours on the boom with his face toward the full moon. On waking in the morning the muscles on the right side of his face were contracted, so that every attempt to speak was attended with the most ludicrous contortions. Feeling sure that something was seriously wrong, he spoke to a sailor, who supposing that as usual he was at his old tricks, burst out into laughter. Off he went to another, with exactly the same result. The poor fellow now got into a rage, thereby adding not a little to the ludicrousness of the scene. After awhile the truth dawned upon the captain and officers of the vessel. The doctor gave him some medicine, the muscles gradually relaxed, and in the course of a week our Maltese friend was well again. Some five or six years ago, when going from Tahiti to Mangia, a little boy of mine, in perfect health, was thoughtlessly placed by his nurse in his berth, the slanting beams of the moon falling on his face. Next morning he was feverish and ill, and it was two or three days before he was himself again. On the island of Aitutaki a native woman was watching night after night for the return of her husband from the island of Atlu. While doing so one night she fell asleep, the moon's rays pouring upon her face. Upon awakening she felt ill, and her eyes were drawn on one side. Considerable interest was felt by the Islanders in her case. Eventually, however, her eyes were restored. These facts illustrate the injury done to human beings by the moon in the tropics, yet I never heard of insanity or death resulting from this cause. It is well known, however, in tropical countries, that the moon's rays occasion the rapid decomposition of flesh and fish. A number of bonitas having been caught one evening near the line by a friend of mine, the spoil was hung up in the rigging of the ship, and was thus exposed to the moon through the night. Next morning it was cooked for breakfast. Symptoms of poisoning were soon exhibited by all who partook of it—their heads swelling to a great size, etc. Emetics were promptly administered, and happily no one died. The natives of the South Pacific are careful never to expose fish (a constant article of diet in many islands) to the moon's rays by any chance. They often sleep by the seashore fishing, but never with the face uncovered. Aborigines of Australia do the same as well as they can with their fishing nets, etc. A fire answers the same purpose. May not the injurious influence of the moon, in addition to her beauty and utility, account for the almost universal worship of that orb throughout the heathen world?—*Sunday at Home.*

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